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Strengthening the Iron Curtain

Republican Senators who are fighting the nomination of Charles Bohlen to be Ambassador to Russia are, however unwittingly, strengthening Russia's Iron Curtain.

There has not been a time since World War II when the United States had more need of a competent ambassador to Russia and there has been no time at which the Kremlin was so anxious to screen what is happening behind the Iron Curtain from trained and observant eyes.

There is no question in any quarter about Mr. Bohlen's character, patriotism, ability, and experience. In fact, all objections to him boil down to a single objection, that he was connected with the Roosevelt and Truman administrations. Since those administrations, between them, lasted for 20 years, the same objection applies to every American who has had any training and experience in diplomacy during the past 20 years.

Those persons include President Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles and numerous others, among them William Howard Taft II, son of the Senator, who served on a special mission to Ireland, where he will serve as ambassador, and has had several years experience in the Central Intelligence Agency, which is world-wide in scope.

But, Republican extremists, who fought the Eisenhower nomination last year, are so wedded to their own campaign promises that they have thrown caution to the winds. They appear equally unmindful of the national interest and Republican party unity. Senator Taft, as majority leader, is personally supporting the Bohlen nomination, but so far has done nothing to quell his former cohorts.

If the objections to Bohlen prevail they will not only delay sending an ambassador to Moscow at a time when it is so needed there, but they will also bar the naming of any other man qualified

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